

Abstract

Apparatus for removing and controlling microbial contamination in dental unit water includes a source of water and an electrolytic subsystem located between the source and a dental unit that continuously treats all the water from the source before the water enters the dental unit. The subsystem does not segregate the anolyte from the catholyte, does not require a separate source of salt or brine, and generates hypochlorite and other active halide compounds from salt naturally present in the water. The subsystem may be formed as an electrolytic cell that can be located in-line between the source of water and the dental unit.